Amendments to the Claims

Please make the following amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Previously Presented) A method for managing incremental storage, the method
comprising:

      monitoring available storage capacity of an existing incremental backup virtual
volume and changing a storage capacity of the of the existing incremental
backup virtual volume in response to a storage management policy and the
available storage capacity, wherein the existing incremental backup virtual
volume stores incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation
of a primary volume and the existing incremental backup virtual volume
comprises at least one storage volume of a storage pool, the at least one
storage volume allocated to the existing incremental backup virtual volume;

      dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the storage pool to the
existing incremental backup virtual volume in response to a change to the
storage capacity of the existing incremental backup virtual volume; and

      mapping in an incremental log corresponding to the existing incremental backup
virtual volume a virtual address of the existing incremental backup virtual
volume assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address
of the at least one storage volume of the storage pool.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising providing incremental snapshot data of the primary volume in response to a replication operation.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein changing a storage capacity of the existing incremental backup virtual volume further comprises alerting a user of a storage over-utilization or under-utilization and changing the storage capacity in response to user input.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising reading data stored in the existing incremental backup virtual volume by way of a data path independent from a data path used to store the incremental storage data.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Cancelled)

28.   (Previously Presented) A method for deploying a computer readable medium for managing incremental storage, the method comprising:

      determining customer requirements for incremental storage;

      deploying a storage management program for managing incremental storage, the storage management program comprising

            monitoring available storage capacity of an existing incremental backup virtual volume and changing a storage capacity of the of the existing incremental backup virtual volume in response

to a storage management policy and the available storage capacity, wherein the existing incremental backup virtual volume stores incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation of a primary volume and the existing incremental backup virtual volume comprises at least one storage volume of a storage pool, the at least one storage volume allocated to the existing incremental backup virtual volume;

dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the storage pool to the existing incremental backup virtual volume in response to a change to the storage capacity of the existing incremental backup virtual volume; and

mapping in an incremental log corresponding to the existing incremental backup virtual volume a virtual address of the existing incremental backup virtual volume assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address of the at least one storage volume of the storage pool; and

maintaining the storage management program.